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Message Text

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46
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 EUR-12 SAB-01 SAM-01 DHA-02

ORM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SCCT-01 /098 W
---------- 016954
R 051217Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5821
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG LE XF
SUBJECT: AUGUST 4 AND 5 CAIRO PRESS ON LEBANON

TEHRAN FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS

1. CAIRO PRESS, REFLECTING QUANDARY IN WHICH GOE POLICYMAKERS FIND THEMSELVES, HAS LIMITED COVERAGE OF LEBANON PAST TWO DAYS TO ITEMS CAREFULLY SELECTED TO PUT GOE IN BESTPOSSIBLE LIGHT.

2. TEL ZA'TAR. PAPERS REPORTED EVACUATION FROM EL ZA'TAR, BUT CLAIM SHELLINGS RESUMED IMMEDIATELY UPON EVACUATION AUGUST 4. AL AKHBAR CALLS TEL ZA'TAR BATTLE SYMBOL OF PALESTINIAN HEROISM AND TREACHERY OF SYRIAN BAATH.

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3. SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT. NEWS AGENCIES REPORT

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QADDUMI STATEMENT THAT SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN/LEBANESE COMMITTEE
WOULD HOLD FIRST MEETING AUGUST 5. PAPERS ALSO CARRY
AL WATAN (KUWAITI) STORY CREDITING SOVIET PRESSURE ON
PALESTINIANS AND SYRIANS FOR AGREEMENT AND CLAIMING THAT SOVIET
DEP FONMIN NOW IN DAMASCUS FOR SECRET TALKS TO BRING AGREEMENT
INTO FORCE.

4. SYRIA. (KUWAITI) AL SIYASA STORY REPORTED THAT DAMASCUS
COUP ATTEMPT OR ASAD ASSASSINATION IN THE WORKS. OTHER
NEWS AGENCY REPORTS SYRIAN CABINET CHANGE WILL REFLECT DETERMINA-
TION OF SYRIANS TO SOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS MILITARILY.

5. RIGHTISTS. PRESS REPORTED FRANJIYA COMPLAINT TO AL
CONCERNING LIBYAN FORCES PARTICIPATION IN BATTLES AGAINST
RIGHTISTS AND KARAME MESSAGE CRITICIZING FRANJIYA FOR
EXCEEDING HIS POWERS AND CALLING ON ARAB LEAGUE TO SEEK
HIS RESIGNATION. PAPERS ALSO NOTED JERUSALEM POST ARTICLE ON
ISRAELI ARMS DELIVERIES TO CHAMOUN AND GEMAYAL AS WELL AS
DAILY EXPRESS REPORT THAT BRITISH MERCENARIES BEING SINGED UP
BY FALANGISTS. ACCORDING TO STORY, MERCENARIES KILLED
600 PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS IN FIRST ENGAGEMENT.

6. EGYPTIAN WISDOM ON LEBANON. PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
SPEAKER MAR'I TOLD STUDENT GATHERING THAT SYRIA HAD
MISCALCULATED IN LEBANON AND, IN WORDS OF KHADDAM,
"GOT BOGGED DOWN IN LEBANESE SWAMP." WISDOM OF EGYPTIAN
DECISION NOT TO INTERVENE, MAR'I SAID,
BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE (YEMEN) AND POLICY OF REFUSAL
TO SHED ARAB BLOOD.

7. NO FURTHER SPECIFICS ON ALLEGED SYRIAN-ISRAELI
INTELLIGENCE CONTACTS APPEARED AUGUST 4 OR 5.
MATTHEWS

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